AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

1. – 17. (Withdrawn)

18. (Currently Amended)   A method for grouping items in a grocery store, the method comprising:

receiving a store layout including existing products from a requestor;

categorizing each said existing product by type;

assigning shelf space to each said existing product, wherein said assigning includes placing each said existing product in close geographic proximity to another said existing product with the same type, wherein at least two of said existing products with the same type assigned in close geographic proximity have different storage unit temperature requirements;

updating said store layout responsive to said assigning; and

transmitting said store layout to said requestor in response to said updating.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein said shelf space includes one or more of a refrigeration unit, a room temperature unit, a freezer unit and a heating unit.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein said method further comprises:

receiving a new product;

categorizing said new product by said type; and

assigning shelf space to said new product, wherein said assigning shelf space to said new product includes placing said new product in close geographic proximity to a said existing product with the same type.

21. (Currently Amended)   A system for grouping items in a grocery store, the system comprising:

a network;

a user system in communication with said network; and

a host system in communication with said network, said host system including layout application software to implement a method comprising:

receiving a store layout including existing products from a requestor located on a user system, said receiving via said network;

categorizing each said existing product by type;

assigning shelf space to each said existing product, wherein said assigning includes placing each said existing product in close geographic proximity to another said existing product with the same type, wherein at least two of said existing products with the same type assigned in close geographic proximity have different storage unit temperature requirements;

updating said store layout responsive to said assigning; and

transmitting said store layout via said network to said requestor in response to said updating.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21 further comprising a storage device in communication with said network wherein said store layout is located on said storage device.

23. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein said network is the Internet.

24. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein said network in an intranet.

25. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein said user system is located in the same geographic location as said host system.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein said user system and said host system communicate directly.

27. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein said user system is located in a different geographic location than said host system.

28. (Currently Amended)   A computer program product for grouping items in a grocery store, the computer program product comprising:

a storage medium readable by a processing circuit and storing instructions for execution by the processing circuit for performing a method comprising:

receiving a store layout including existing products from a requestor;

categorizing each said existing product by type;

assigning shelf space to each said existing product, wherein said assigning includes placing each said existing product in close geographic proximity to another said existing product with the same type, wherein at least two of said existing products with the same type assigned in close geographic proximity have different storage unit temperature requirements;

updating said store layout responsive to said assigning; and

transmitting said store layout to said requestor in response to said updating.

29. (New)   The method of claim 18 wherein the at least two of said existing products with the same type in close geographic proximity having different storage unit temperature requirements are assigned to a common aisle of the grocery store.